



A chimney that passes on size, passageway, and clearance can still fail reuse if the cleanout was never verified. IMC 801.18.3 sends existing masonry back to 801.13: minimum 6-inch opening height, upper edge at least 6 inches below the lowest inlet, tight-fitting noncombustible cover, access maintained. New equipment and finishes on the same project are what usually hide it.

Original Masterbuild PE packet from Daily Code Talk on 2024 IMC 801.18.3. Confirm the adopted edition. Distinct from new-construction cleanouts (801.12–801.13). This is the reuse check: was the cleanout actually found, measured, and left accessible after the renovation? This is not a cleanout design.

☐ **Show how the chimney will be inspected, cleaned, and maintained — not only the new appliance connection.**

If the cleanout is missing, blocked, undersized, concealed, or inaccessible, the existing chimney condition is not fully reviewable.

☐ **Do not assume a cleanout that was compliant before a renovation remains accessible after new construction concealed it.**

Treat it as a permanent maintenance access point, not a one-time construction item.

☐ **Add a fourth line to the existing-chimney acceptance record for the cleanout alone: location, opening height, elevation below lowest inlet.**

Compare M-501 against the equipment layout, casework, and finish plans.

The fail we see first

New water heater in front of the old cleanout. Or casework and a finished wall. The reviewer cannot verify size, elevation, or access until the concealment is corrected.

What to send: photos below the lowest inlet, the new equipment layout, and whether anyone can still open a cleanout after the renovation.

Send the comments. Not the County guideline.

Folio (does it start with 30?), process or UP number, and the comments PDF. Masterbuild will say which row is actually open.

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+1 (786) 398-6940 · Calendly: 30-minute scoping call

Masterbuild provides engineering services under a written scope. Not a cleanout design. The 6-inch figures are Daily Code Talk education from 801.13. Confirm adopted 801.18.3. This is not legal advice.